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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,254	01/04/2001	William Joshua Price	M-8504 US	5201

32566 7590 08/26/2005

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EXAMINER	
CHANG, ERIC	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2116	

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/755,254	PRICE, WILLIAM JOSHUA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Chang	2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 June 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent U.S. Patent 6,260,079 to White, in view of U.S. Patent 6,046,511 to Kincaid.

4. As to claim 1, White discloses a device comprising a controller powered by a voltage circuit and coupled to an internal bus [FIG. 10, and col. 15, lines 38-56]. White teaches that a plurality of such devices may further be coupled to an external SCSI bus [FIG. 5, elements 513-515 and 518]. Therefore, White teaches a first device comprising a first controller powered by a first voltage circuit and coupled to a first bus, and a second device comprising a second controller powered by a second voltage circuit and coupled to a second bus, substantially as claimed, and that the two devices are further coupled to an external bus.

White teaches all of the limitations of the claim but does not teach that a first switch is coupled between the buses to decouple the first and second buses when a voltage falls below a predetermined threshold.

Kincaid teaches a switch operative to decouple a first and a second bus when a voltage falls below a predetermined threshold [col. 3, lines 25-34]. When the voltage output from the

second voltage circuit falls below a predetermined threshold, element [24] decouples the buses, substantially as claimed.

At the time that the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ the bus decoupling means as taught by Kincaid. Kincaid teaches that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so that the loss of power, either intentional or accidental, to a portion of the bus would not affect the electrical load on the rest of the bus [col. 3, lines 18-24].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the cited references because they are both directed to the problem of providing resilient and fault-tolerant performance for devices on a bus. Moreover, the bus decoupling means taught by Kincaid would improve the robustness of White because it would also regulate the bus voltage in the event of short circuits and other physical circuit failures [col. 2, lines 8-34].

5. As to claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-22 and 24-26, White discloses a bus coupled to a first plurality of elements, including at least one of a temperature sensor, a memory, a backplane controller, a port bypass circuit, an I/O expansion slots for disk drives, and at least one power supply [col. 20, lines 64-67, and col. 21, lines 1-26]. It would further be well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a battery can be used as a power supply, substantially as claimed.

6. As to claims 5, 9, 14, 19 and 23, White discloses devices comprising a controller powered by a first voltage circuit and coupled to an internal bus. Kincaid discloses a switch operable to decouple portions of buses each other when the voltage output from a power circuit

falls below a predetermined threshold. Because White and Kincaid teach that buses coupled to a controller may be decoupled when the voltage output from a power circuit falls below a predetermined threshold, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that White and Kincaid further teach that any number of buses coupled to a controller may likewise be decoupled by such switch means. Therefore, White and Kincaid teach a second, third and fourth switch for decoupling a third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh bus coupled to controllers, substantially as claimed.

7. As to claims 27-28, Kincaid discloses a communication bus system for receiving and distributing information from a plurality of subsystems connected to the bus [col. 1, lines 54-59]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Kincaid to any applicable bus system, such as an I2C bus.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3671. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 18, 2005
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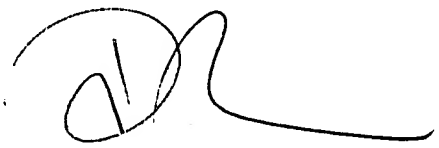

A. ELAMIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER